



*The* LIBRARY *of* CONGRESS

GERSHWIN PRIZE  
*for* POPULAR SONG

*celebrating the music of*

*Stevie*  
**WONDER**



**February 23, 2009**

Coolidge Auditorium  
Thomas Jefferson Building





### *The Ira and Leonore Gershwin Fund*

The Ira and Leonore Gershwin Fund in the Library of Congress was established in 1992 by a bequest from Mrs. Gershwin to perpetuate the name and works of her husband, Ira, and his brother, George, and to provide support for worthy related music and literary projects.

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The Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation was established in 1925 to promote and advance chamber music through commissions, public concerts, and festivals; to purchase music manuscripts; and to support musical scholarship. With an additional gift, Mrs. Coolidge financed the construction of the Coolidge Auditorium which has become world famous for its magnificent acoustics and for the caliber of artists and ensembles who have played there.

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### **Please take note:**

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC AND SOUND RECORDING  
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BEFORE THE CONCERT BEGINS, PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO TURN  
OFF THEIR CELL PHONES, PAGERS, ALARM WATCHES, OR OTHER  
NOISEMAKING OBJECTS THAT WOULD DISRUPT THE PERFORMANCE.

Thank you.

*Letter from the  
Librarian of Congress,  
James H. Billington*

Thank you for joining us this evening in honoring Stevie Wonder, the second recipient of the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song. Ever since he rose to celebrity in the 1960s as a musical prodigy, Stevie Wonder has been a beloved and revered presence on the American music scene, producing one brilliant work after another and leading a generation of musical talent into new and uncharted creative waters. For his unparalleled contribution to the genre of popular song and the musical landscape of our time, he is eminently deserving of this award.



As an added distinction to this year's Gershwin Prize, the Library has commissioned a new composition by Stevie Wonder. With this work, Wonder joins a group of prominent composers who have received Library commissions, ranging from Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein to Paquito D'Rivera and Cecil Taylor.

The Gershwin Prize was established to honor an artist whose creative output transcends distinctions between musical styles and idioms, brings diverse listeners together, and fosters mutual understanding and appreciation. The Library's strategic purpose in bestowing this award is to connect directly with popular music artists whose creative works are collected here, and to raise awareness of the Library's role in preserving this important genre for the national patrimony.

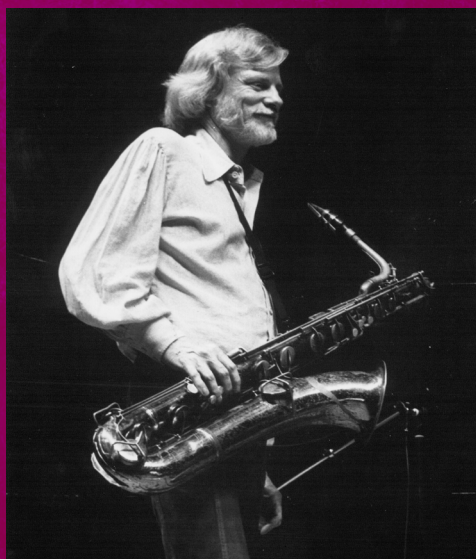
We appreciate the friendship and generosity of the Gershwin families who have allowed the Gershwin name to be used for this unique award. Tonight, many of the family members are in the audience, helping to celebrate this special collaboration between the Gershwin families and the Library of Congress.

In making the selection for the Gershwin Prize, we turned for advice to leading members of the music and entertainment communities. I wish to thank this year's advisory committee consisting of Michael Feinstein, Lorne Michaels, Phil Ramone, Allen Toussaint, and the first recipient of the Gershwin Prize, Paul Simon.

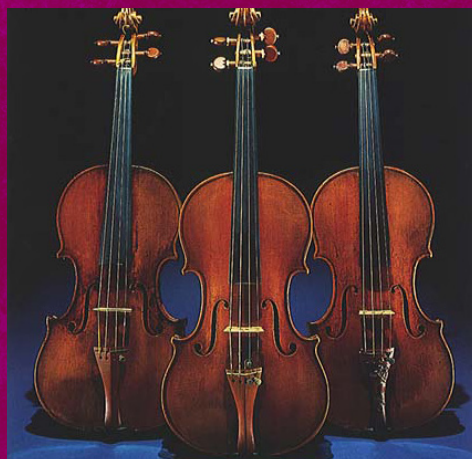
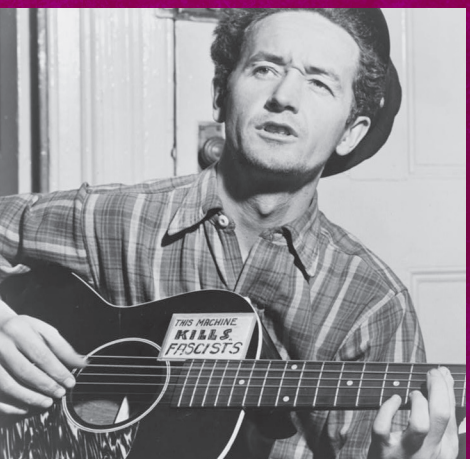
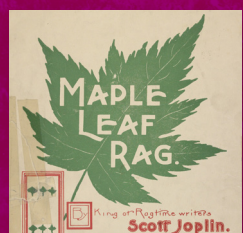
Thank you all for being a part of this special tribute to a musician who continues to be a wonder and inspiration to people everywhere with his musical magic.

A handwritten signature of James H. Billington in dark ink.

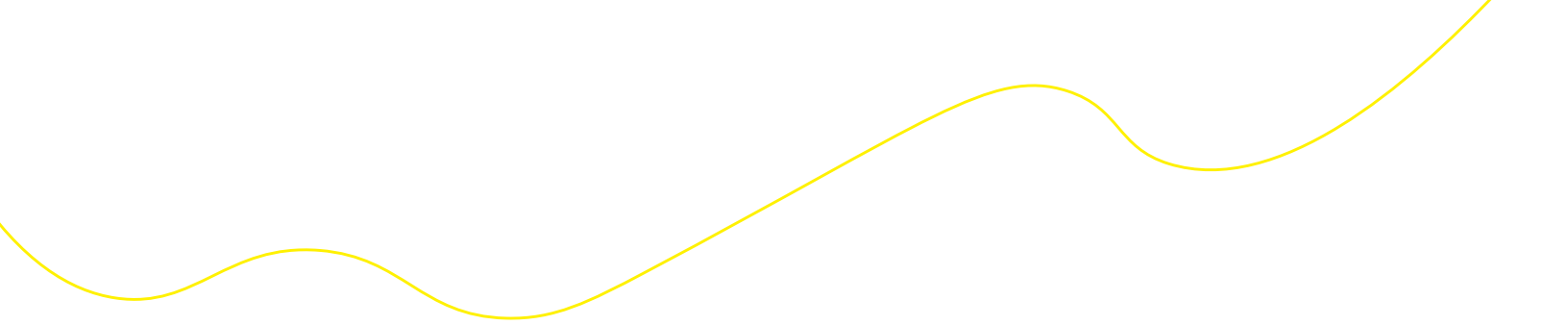




*From the  
Library's  
collections:*







The Library of Congress is the nation's oldest federal cultural institution and the largest library in the world, with more than 138 million items in some 460 languages on approximately 530 miles of shelves. It is the nation's storehouse of knowledge, with vast collections of books, manuscripts, maps, sound recordings, films, newspapers, prints and photographs. Increasingly these collections are being digitized and made accessible to everyone on the Library's website at [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov). Now anyone can view Thomas Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence, the papers of Abraham Lincoln, Revolutionary War maps, Civil War photographs, the first Thomas Edison films and sound recordings, and millions more documents of American history, and increasingly, world history. The items themselves are housed in three buildings on Capitol Hill, the oldest being the beautiful Thomas Jefferson Building, opened in 1897.

*The music collections in the Library of Congress encompass virtually all musical genres-classical, jazz, folk, gospel, blues, rock, country and hip-hop.*

There are original manuscripts of European masters such as Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, and Brahms, as well as those of American masters such as Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein. There is the largest sheet music collection in the world, dating back to the earliest publishers in Europe and America and up to the present. Of utmost importance to the study of popular music is the Library's vast collections of traditional music, including the repertoires of early blues men such as Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters, and field recordings of diverse American folk music traditions. The Library's sound recording collection spans more than 100 years of recording history, from the first cylinder recordings of the 1890s up to the most recently released

albums in every musical style. These collections are now housed in the new National Audiovisual Conservation Center, a state-of-the-art preservation facility in Culpeper, Virginia, opened in 2008.

Since 1925, the Library of Congress has offered free public concerts in its 500-seat Coolidge Auditorium. Recent seasons have brought in a rich diversity of performers from violinist Joshua Bell to slam champion Marc Bemuthi Joseph to Roseanne Cash and Mark O'Connor. Library commissions have brought into existence such 20th-century masterpieces as Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and Bela Bartok's *Concerto for Orchestra*.

One of the goals of establishing the Gershwin Prize is to put a spotlight on the musical treasures in the Library of Congress, especially the vast popular music collection, to encourage students, teachers, scholars, and researchers to use this free, public resource. Many are now online at <http://www.loc.gov/library/libarch-digital.html>.



# *The* LIBRARY *of* CONGRESS AND THE GERSHWINS



**T**he Library of Congress is the world's preeminent body of primary-source materials for the study of the life and work of the Gershwins, providing not only biographical information and a record of the brothers' compositional processes, but also a compelling and immediate sense of their distinctive personalities. Chief in importance in the collection is the music (including orchestrations, piano-vocal scores, and sketches), lyric sheets and librettos, much of which is in the handwriting of the Gershwins. There is also a wealth of correspondence providing a firsthand view of the brothers' daily lives, creative processes, and personalities. Pictorial materials include many photographs of George, Ira, and members of their family and circle of friends, as well as paintings

and drawings by both George and Ira. Legal and financial papers, thirty-four scrapbooks, programs, posters, scores from George's music library, and scripts for radio broadcasts, all add up to an unparalleled resource for the study of the Gershwins and their milieu. The Gershwin Collection began in 1939, two years after George's death, with an exchange of letters between Ira Gershwin and Harold Spivacke, then chief of the Music Division. The first item Ira gave to the Library was George's sketch for "The Crapshooter's Song" from *Porgy and Bess* along with the promise that he would "dig up something more satisfactory." In 1953 came the manuscripts of the large-scale works, including





These were followed by many generous gifts from other family members and friends. In 1987, Ira's widow, Leonore, donated the remaining music manuscripts and lyric sheets from her home. Until her death in 1991, she continued purchasing items for the collection, and today her generous bequest continues to support acquisitions and programs that extend the legacy of the Gershwin brothers.

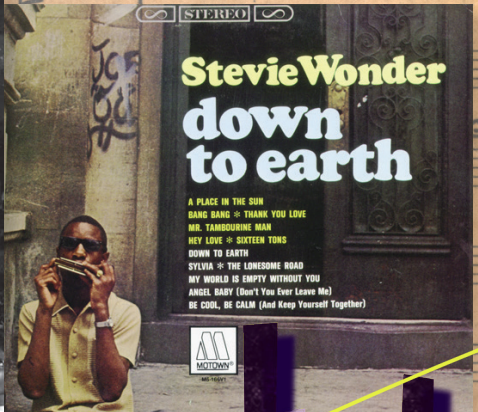
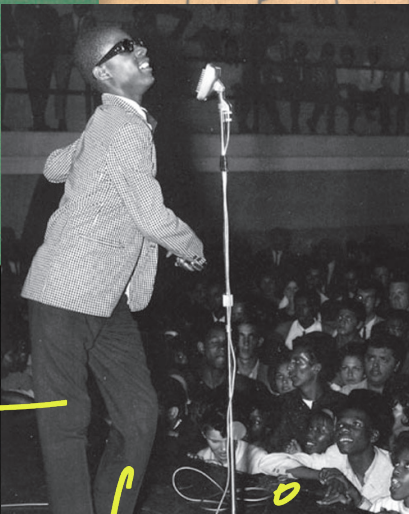
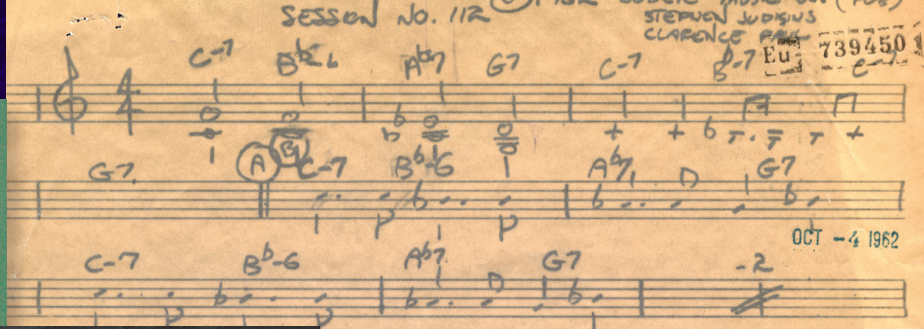
In 1985, the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded posthumously to George and Ira Gershwin for their "outstanding and invaluable contributions to American music, theatre, and culture." The medal, designed and executed by Edgar Z. Steever and Charles Y. Martin, both sculptors and engravers at the U.S. Mint,

features both brothers in profile. On the back is the now famous inscription Ira wrote in the Librarian of Congress' guest book in 1966; quoting from his Pulitzer Prize-winning show *Of Thee I Sing*, he wrote, "Shining star and inspiration, worthy of a mighty nation- and I do mean the LOC [Library of Congress]."

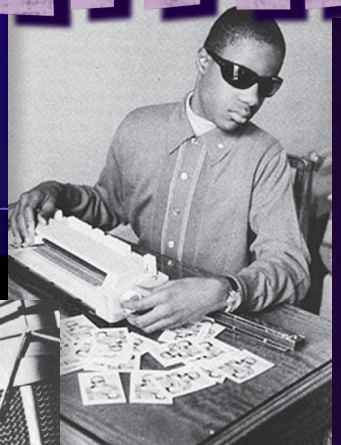
In commemoration of George and Ira Gershwin's dedication to American song and culture and the generous efforts of their families to preserve and perpetuate that heritage, the Library of Congress has named its Prize for Popular Song after these two prolific artists. The medal that is awarded to Stevie Wonder is adapted from the design of the Gershwin Congressional Gold Medal.





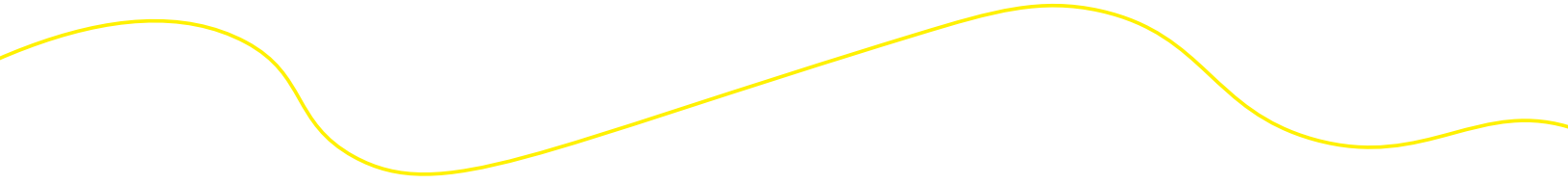


# Stevie WONDER





*One of the most important songwriters of his generation, Stevie Wonder has forged his diverging styles into a trademark sound, putting his musical signature on such albums as Talking Book (1972), Innervisions (1973), Fulfillingness' First Finale (1974), and Songs in the Key of Life (1976). He continued his hit-making journey in the decades to follow, penning classics like his 1982 collaboration with Paul McCartney, "Ebony and Ivory," which remained number one for seven weeks in a row, and 1984's "I Just Called to Say I Love You" from The Woman in Red soundtrack, which generated him an academy award.*



In 1989, Wonder was inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame. Ten years later, he was a Kennedy Center honoree. Inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2002, he was the first African American to be awarded the Johnny Mercer Award in 2004 in recognition of a lifetime of outstanding creative works. The same year, he was also presented with The Billboard Century Award.

Wonder is now in his fifth decade as one of the most prolific artists in music history, with 30 top hits, 11 number one pop singles, and 25 Grammys, including a Lifetime Achievement Grammy in 1996. His contribution to worldwide social and political change is just as impressive, having championed the effort to make Martin Luther King's birthday a national holiday, as well as becoming a driving force behind 1985's USA For Africa campaign.

In 2007 and 2008, Stevie Wonder took "A Wonder Summer's Night" concert tour across the United States and Europe, his first tour in more than a decade. He is currently working on two projects, "The Gospel Inspired by Lula" and "Through the Eyes of Wonder." The Motown release

"Stevie Live at Last" of the performance at the London O2 Arena in October 2008 will be available on DVD and BluRay in March 2009.





(AS RECORDED BY SERGIO MENDES AND BRAZIL 77)

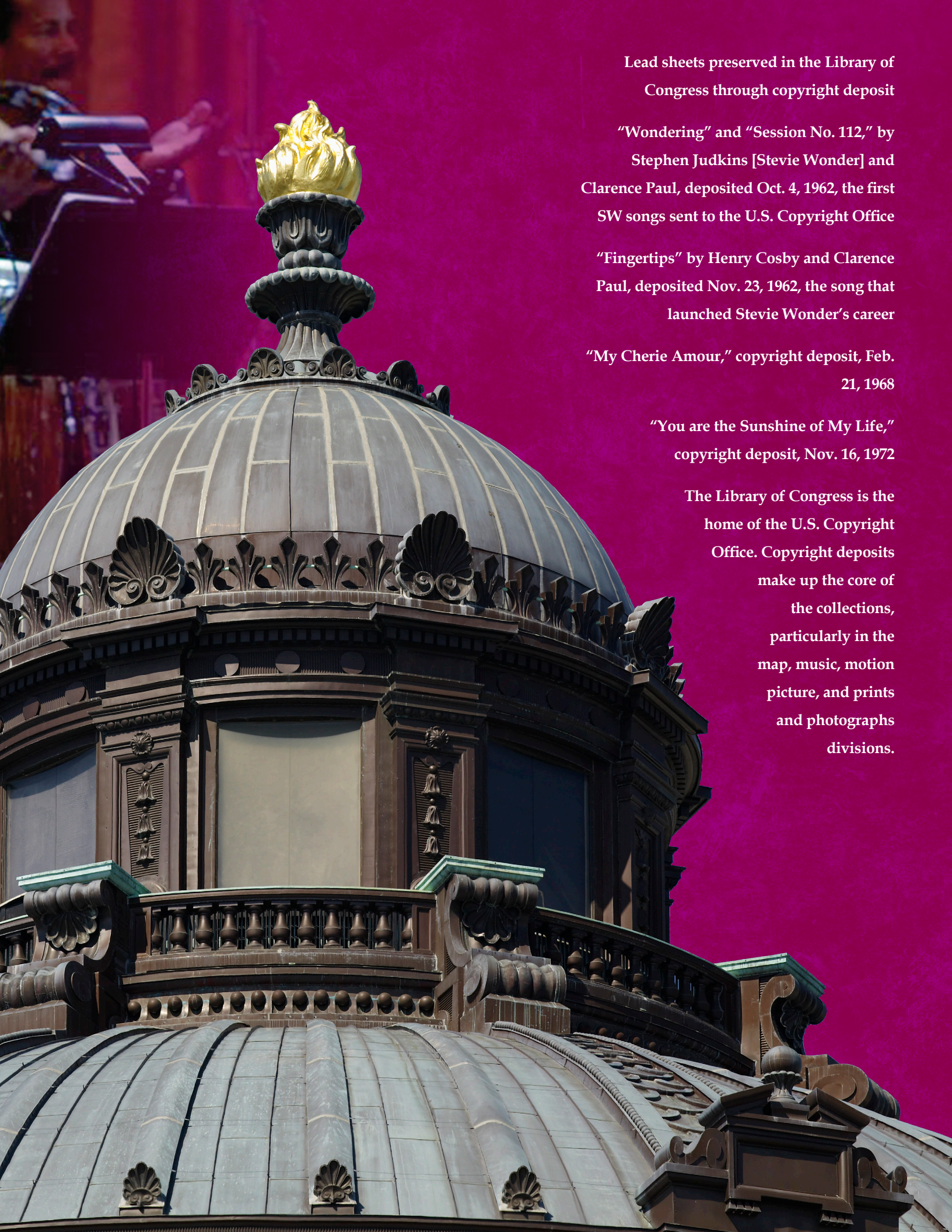


FINGERTIPS

© 1962  
OCT -4 1962

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Lead sheets preserved in the Library of  
Congress through copyright deposit

"Wondering" and "Session No. 112," by  
Stephen Judkins [Stevie Wonder] and  
Clarence Paul, deposited Oct. 4, 1962, the first  
SW songs sent to the U.S. Copyright Office

"Fingertips" by Henry Cosby and Clarence  
Paul, deposited Nov. 23, 1962, the song that  
launched Stevie Wonder's career

"My Cherie Amour," copyright deposit, Feb.  
21, 1968

"You are the Sunshine of My Life,"  
copyright deposit, Nov. 16, 1972

The Library of Congress is the  
home of the U.S. Copyright  
Office. Copyright deposits  
make up the core of  
the collections,  
particularly in the  
map, music, motion  
picture, and prints  
and photographs  
divisions.





LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

*Music Division*

**Library of Congress**

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